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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 7, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM MURPHY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord, Your words to the prophet Ezekiel are spoken today to each Member of Congress: "Look closely and listen carefully. Mark well all that I show you, for this is why you have been brought here."

Lord, through Your people's election, You have chosen the Members of this Congress and You hold them accountable. With the gift of Your word and wisdom, they are to read the times. Through their own efforts, they come to know Your people and the priority of Your people's needs. Through their common endeavor, they create a broad sweeping vision that holds Your people together as they decide the means to be used and make the laws of this land.

Guide them in this noble construction as You guided Ezekiel. All will be measured according to Your vision and purpose. Before speaking, the exhortation is "to look closely and listen carefully." Only then will words and actions be truly prophetic. For You are the Lord now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

BUILDING PEACE BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as the leaders of India and Pakistan continue their efforts to bring peace to South Asia, a historic visit to Capitol Hill takes place this week by a delegation of parliamentarians from India and Pakistan for a joint political and cultural exchange. These 14 parliamentarians have traveled together as a team to America and represent the future hopes of more than 1 billion people.

While India and Pakistan have lived in enmity for more than 50 years, the people of both nations share similar cultures and ambitions such as respect for family, religious traditions, and the desire to see South Asia prosper financially with peace between these two nations. These parliamentarians represent the symbolic interest of these common interests.

The future of South Asia lies in the hands of its young men and women. I commend the American Council of Young Political Leaders for bringing

this delegation of South Asian leaders to America, and I am confident that one day, India and Pakistan will live in peace as neighbors for mutual benefit as we all work together for victory in the global war on terror.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

THE MIDDLE-CLASS SQUEEZE

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, middle-class families are feeling the pinch. They feel it as they try to afford health care, try to keep their jobs, and try to provide a rewarding education for their children.

When I am in southeast Texas, I talk to folks every day who tell me they cannot afford tuition for their children, health care for their parents, or even to provide for themselves. These folks are getting the middle-class squeeze at literally every level. They work harder and harder every day, work more and more hours every day, and make less and less. The middle class is paying more in taxes, and the tax breaks that the rich get are not there for the folks who really need it.

I hope that my colleagues will use the remainder of our time in session to support these families so that our hardest-working Americans do not get left behind.

TODD BUCHANAN

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, one can scarcely imagine a more horrifying and terrifying experience than what happened yesterday to Todd Buchanan as

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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